

**FACULTY SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
JULY 8, 2008 – 206F SHELBY HALL – 3:00 PM**

APPROVED MINUTES

ATTENDING: Karen Steckol, Clark Midkiff, Lowell Baker, Carolyn Cassady, Katrina Ramonell, Ed Stephenson, John Vincent, Rona Donahoe, Marcia Barrett, Melondie Carter

GUESTS: Cresandra Smothers, Dialog

Roll call and quorum check by Administrative Secretary, Linda Knowles.

The minutes from the May 6, 2008 Faculty Senate Steering Committee meeting were approved.

President's Report – (*Karen Steckol*) The Provost is in the process of responding to several issues brought up in the last meeting of the Provost and Faculty Senate President Karen Steckol. The slow **renovation** of classrooms and lab spaces on campus were included in those issues. Complicated paperwork, bidding, funding and approval procedures are primary causes of delayed renovations. Renovation project outsourcing has saved the University money and caused delays. The lack of progress is very seriously impacting some faculty members. Information has been forwarded to administration for the **Academic Planner**. According to a report by a faculty member credit is being given for some 300 level transfer-in courses without going through the proper procedures of getting the approval of the appropriate department. This was referred to the Academic Affairs Committee for follow up this fall. The **Board of Trustees** approved **tuition increases** for all three UA system institutions and a ninety million dollar bond issue for the University. Discussion included increasing faculty and student attendance at **Higher Education Day** in Montgomery.

Vice President's Report – (*Clark Midkiff*) No report.

Secretary's Report – (*Jeanette VanderMeer*) No report.

Academic Affairs – (*Marcia Barrett & John Vincent*) No report.

Faculty Life – (*Deidre Leaver-Dunn & Lowell Baker*) No report.

Financial Affairs – (*Katrina Ramonell & Steven Hobbs*) No report.

Research & Service – (*Ed Stephenson & Laurie Bonnici*) The **Conflict of Interest Policy** has been distributed with the Research and Service Committee signing off on the document. According to Joe Benson the policy will not be a part of the Faculty Handbook. Marcia Barrett made a motion seconded by Rona Donahoe to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy document. The motion passed unanimously. The **Academic Misconduct Policy** with a federally mandated deadline is a section of the Faculty Handbook. A draft was received by the Steering Committee more than a year ago and returned with objections to the reporting channels and other wording contained in the document. President Steckol will check on the status of this document. Following the Provost's request names were forwarded from the

Steering Committee for the search committee's positions of Vice President for Research and Vice President for Student Affairs. No further information is known at this time.

Faculty & Senate Governance – (*John Mason & Michael Martone/Marci Daugherty*) The names of the Mediation Committee faculty members, Walter Robbins and Mindy Nancarrow, were forwarded to the Provost.

Student Affairs – (*Melondie Carter & Carolyn Cassady*) No report.

Reports from Other Committees –

Review of Deans & Chairs – (*Lowell Baker & John Vincent*) The Review of Deans and Chairs document was sent electronically to the Faculty Senate Steering Committee. The Council of Deans came back with five recommended changes to the document including the identification of a certain type of response, definition of “faculty”, reviewing every year instead of every other year and some minor wording changes. Great concern was expressed concerning anonymity of the responders. The possibility of any identification of a responder would essentially cause nonparticipation by faculty members. An off campus third party will conduct the survey. It was pointed out that Deans and Chairs are held to a different standard than faculty. Faculty members are evaluated by students every semester anonymously. The motion was made by Lowell Baker and seconded to accept the Deans and Chairs Review document deleting the sentences in Sections D & H, “*Failure to release the name could potentially affect the manner in which the feedback is evaluated. For example, the Dean may choose to ignore the feedback in its entirety*”. The motion passed unanimously. Appreciation was expressed to Lowell Baker, John Vincent, committee members and the Faculty Senate Steering Committee for all assistance given during this four year process. All SUG institutions have an evaluation process in place with the exception of Alabama and it is a SACS requirement. Lowell Baker will no longer be chair of the committee due to being on sabbatical and John Vincent comes off the committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 PM.